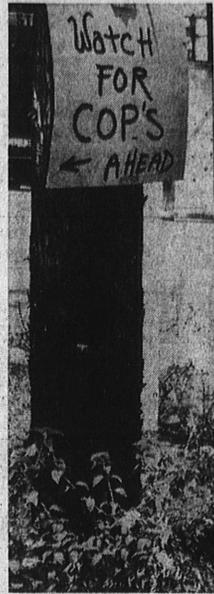


Girl, 14, Tells Experience in Train Wreck



SCOOP CHASER . . . Deadline Dick with his nose for news ever alert (and big) for unusual items in the news, sneaks up on a sign in Walteria erected by an unidentified benefactor to motorists. (Herald photo).

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24 PAGES



COMMANDER JIM PARKS
Born, Raised, Elected Here

Legion Picks Native Son For New Post Commander

James Parks, 2530 El Dorado avenue, was elected Commander of the Bert S. Crossland American Legion Post No. 170 at the organization's election last week.

Parks, a World War II veteran, succeeds Tom Watson, Son of Fay Parks of the Torrance Plumbing Company, the new Legion commander is believed to be the first native son of Torrance to head the post.

Parks defeated Lyle O'Hara and Bayard T. Whitney for the top office.

Robert Sleeth Jr. was elected senior vice commander, and Joseph Platt was elected junior vice commander.

Robert Fernley was named finance officer, William Diamond sergeant-at-arms and Ben Youngken service officer.

The only officer re-elected to his post was the chaplain, Paddy Ryan.

The new officers will be installed prior to a Legion dance to be held Saturday July 29 at the Legion hall.

Teenager Recounts Train Crash Scene

EXCLUSIVE

Suffering a bruised arm, Shirley Kissel, a 14-year-old Torrance High School girl, told of her experience this week aboard the ill-fated El Capitan which crashed into another train last Thursday killing nine and injuring scores.

Contacted by phone at Columbus, Ohio, the local girl who lives at 23038 Huber street, Torrance, said:

"Tell my mother I'm alright, but still a little shaky."

By SHIRLEY KISSEL

As told to Torrance Herald's Managing Editor Jack O. Baldwin

"Lucky for me I was in the last car. I remember it was just before daylight and I had got out of my chair and was walking toward the front of the train. All of a sudden I was pitched headlong into another seat. I guess that's when I hurt my arm.

"The train came to an awful sudden stop. But lucky for us our coach didn't leave the tracks. One woman broke her arm, I know.

"At first I didn't know what to do. I just sat there and held a little 10-year-old girl who was going back east, too. She was crying and then somebody came in and said there had been a wreck.

"We got out and walked along the tracks. Already the Red Cross workers had arrived and were giving first aid.

"One man had his leg pulled off. Then I saw a dead lady, but nobody knew who she was. I had seen a dead person before, but not like this.

"I feel shakier now than I did then. I guess I was too busy to think about it much then.

"After a while a man from the railroad came and took all of us who were not injured, to a telegraph office so we could wire our families. Then they sent the 'Chief' to pick us up and take us on into Chicago. We arrived about 10 hours late."

The young high school girl was enroute to visit her father, Oliver Clifford Kissel, in Columbus, Ohio, when the crack Santa Fe streamliner jumped the rails and crashed into a passing train at Monica, Illinois.

Mrs. Margaret Townsend, her mother, who lives at the Huber street address, said she spent some "rather anxious hours" until she received a wire from her daughter, some 12 hours after the crash.

The wrecked coaches were also described as a "pile of jack straws" by Eugene DeBra, owner of the DeBra Radio Company, 1517 Cabrillo avenue.

DeBra was enroute from Chicago the day following the crash and passed within 10 feet of the car in which a number of the passengers were killed. He described the crumpled coach as a "mess."



SHIRLEY KISSEL
... Describes Crash

Driver Starting Engine Greeted By Cat Calls

A cat, a chow dog and the fan on an automobile teamed up last week to give several Sartori avenue shoppers a n unexpected show.

The cat, scared by a chow dog in one car, leaped beneath another parked car and up into the engine compartment.

The owner of the car, unidentified in the ensuing melee, started the engine of his car—with a howl.

With fur and fan belts flying, Frank Norris crawled underneath the auto and retrieved the cat.

The cat, minus a life or two, appeared happy enough at being rescued.

Theater Manager Beaten, Kicked

Beaten and kicked in the head and groin Saturday night was a Torrance resident, John H. Ricci, manager of the Vermont Drive-in Theater, where the beating occurred.

Ricci, who lives at 1024 Beech avenue, told police he was attacked, knocked to the ground, and then kicked several times by a group of teenagers. He told police he asked the youths to move the car from the driveway but they refused. As he took down the license number, they leaped from the car and attacked him, he told police.

An usher, Eugene Pelletier, of Los Angeles, found Ricci sitting on the sidewalk beaten almost to unconsciousness.

Pin Ball Machines Outlawed

City Council Tuesday night told pin ball machine owners to pick up their marbles and go home.

Following the reading of letters from the PTA, local churches, and the TRAC, the city fathers rang up a permanent "tilt" on the machines by passing an ordinance banning the devices in Torrance.

Following normal legal procedure, the new law will become effective on or about August 24. The new law makes it illegal to possess or play pin ball machines. The ordinance does not affect certain candy-for-coin machines, cigarette dispensers, or soft-drink devices.

Outlawed also were punchboards. The city fathers made it a misdemeanor for cafe owners, tavern operators, or anyone else to possess a pay-to-punch board.

The law puts additional teeth in a new state law which states that all one-armed bandits, a cousin to pin ball machines, must be across the California state borders by Saturday night.

The state law formerly forbade the playing of the machines, while the new statute makes the possession of the pull-the-handle-down type devices illegal.



TOP NIPPON TALENT . . . Misora Hibari, the Nipponese Margaret O'Brien, and Kawada Haruhisa, the Bob Hope of Japan, are greeted backstage at the Grand Theater Tuesday by S. Kumamoto, president of the company distributing her films in America and Jack Dabbs, general manager of the Stadium, Grand and Torrance theaters in Torrance. The 13-year-old Japanese star is the number one box office attraction in Japan and in movie houses of America showing her films. (Herald photo).



HIGH STAKES . . . Mayor Bob L. Haggard wields the sledge to drive the first stake marking the start of a 6½-million-dollar new home project at Crenshaw and Torrance boulevards. Holding the marker is Louis Lesser, president of Torrance Gardens, Inc. Others include (left to right) Mrs. R. C. Brown, hostess at the ground-breaking ceremonies; A. A. Feldman, secretary-treasurer of the developing firm; Dean L. Sears, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce; George W. Stevens, city manager; Haggard, and Abe Manalls, vice president of the building concern. (Herald photo).

\$5½ Million New Home Tract Started Here

Turning of the traditional first shovel and setting of surveyor's stakes marked the start Thursday morning of a 5½ million dollar new-home development in Torrance.

Officers of the Torrance Gardens Inc. and city officials launched the start of the 433 new homes at Torrance and Crenshaw boulevards.

Louis Lesser, president of the housing developing company, said that upon completion of the tract the company would start immediately on an additional 99 homes on an 18-acre site south of Torrance boulevard and west of Madrona avenue.

Bordering the tract on Crenshaw and Torrance boulevards will be a new shopping center, according to Louis Rudman, a representative of the corporation.

Completion of four model homes is expected in four weeks while the completion of the entire tract is expected by February or March of 1951. A company spokesman said he hoped to finish four homes a week.

Some of the features of the new homes include a covered patio and barbecue pit, General Electric dishwasher and disposal unit, stall showers, leather-covered breakfast nook, and concealed television antennas in the attic.

Ranging in price from \$8500 to \$11,000 the new homes will vary in size from 900 to 1150 square feet. The homes will be

(Continued on Page 3)

Eligibles Overwhelm Registrars

Based on per cent of population, Torrance will be asked to furnish a total of three draftees to answer President Truman's call for 20,000 selective service inductees.

With the preliminary quota for Los Angeles County set at 600 for the first batch of 25-year-olds, it has been calculated that Torrance will be asked to provide approximately one half of one per cent of this number—or three inductees.

Meanwhile local draft registration offices and Army and Navy recruiting offices were jammed with draft eligibles and prospective recruits.

Mrs. Helen K. Dill, veteran's counselor at the Veteran's Service Center, 1339 Post avenue, reported 22 draft eligibles had been to her office on Monday to rectify change of address, marital status, or number of dependents.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bowen, 1327 Post avenue, both registrars for selective service re-

(Continued on Page 2)

C of C Champions Improved Phone Service Demands

Added impetus was given to the recent demand for better telephone service for Torrance this week when the Torrance Chamber of Commerce authorized the drafting of a petition demanding improved service for local residents.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors Monday afternoon, Director C. T. Rippey moved that the chamber prepare the petition and suggest that industrial establishments wishing to aid forces in the program be encouraged to write letters to the Chamber of Commerce on the company's stationery.

The Chamber's action followed a letter presented recently by Dr. W. I. Laughon, representing the Co-ordinating Council of Torrance Service Clubs. The letter rapped the officials of the Local Telephone Company for failing to keep pace with the development of the city.

It was pointed out that the city is served by dial phones in North Torrance with a Menck exchange, in central Torrance by operator-controlled switch boards, in South Torrance by the Central exchange, and in Southwest Torrance by the dial system of the Associated Telephone company.

COUNTY'S ACTION OK'S YWCA CLUBHOUSE PLAN

County action Tuesday practically assured the YWCA of a site for their proposed clubhouse.

Raymond V. Darby, of the County Board of Supervisors, announced this week that Board Chairman William A. Smith had signed a quit claim deed to a 2.9-acre triangle site at Carson street and Plaza del Arno.

The county's action followed an investigation by Mayor Bob L. Haggard into the legal ramifications of having the land transferred to the city. Mayor Haggard proposed to the council that portions of the park-like land be leased for 99 years to the local YWCA for their clubhouse.

By releasing the restrictions on the property, the Torrance Junior Woman's Club will be able to start construction of the project. The local woman's organization has raised a building fund of more than \$11,800 by sponsoring five queen contests and other projects in the city.